

Montana Cities



Street Sweeping Comparison

Billings
Great Falls

Bozeman
Helena
Missoula

Butte
Kalispell

City Comparison of Assets & Practices

City	2010 Census Population	Paved Streets (Miles)	Number of Sweepers	Frequency for Residential Areas	How is Parking Regulated during Sweeping?	Frequency for Commercial/Downtown	Do you Track the amount of Sand used in Winter for Traction Control?	Do you Track the amount of Sand Swept up from your Sanding program?	Do you Recycle your Sand?	Do you have your Sweepings Tested?	How are Sweepings Disposed	Leaf Pick up	Bagged or Loose	How are Leaves Disposed?
Billings	104,170	512	7	3/year		4 hours/day	yes	yes	no	no	landfill	yes/Solid Waste Div.	bagged	*do not sweep leaves into gutter-Pick up is done by Solid Waste Division, not Streets.
Bozeman	32,280	200	4	4/year	Parking Tickets are Issued	daily	yes	yes	no	yes	haul to Logan landfill	yes	Compostable bags or loose	Compost
Butte/Silverbow	33,525	290	8	1/year		weekly	yes	no	no	yes	repository in the Berkeley Pit			
Great Falls	58,505	297	6	4x/Yr.	Sweepers skip area	daily	Yes	yes	no	no	landfill			*sweeping schedule is posted in Great Falls Tribune
Helena	28,190	211	5	8/year	Sweepers Skip Area	daily	yes	yes	yes	yes	Recycled	Boulevard Trees Only	Loose	Compost
Kalispell	19,927	148.3	3	4 hours/day		daily	yes	yes	no	yes	landfill	Blvd. only Oct1-Nov 30	Loose	Kalispell mixes their own Sand/Chips & Salt for Winter
Missoula	66,788	416	8	2x/Yr.	Vehicles are Towed	*1/Week	yes	yes	no	yes	landfill	Fall only	Loose	Local Compost Operation

Based on the information collected, the City of Helena is the only known City in the state that is currently recycling sand for traction control. Other cities stated that they had tried to reuse sand, but that the attempts were not successful. Two cities cited sand breakdown and a third stated that the Montana DEQ would not allow the recycled sand to be used. The City of Helena Streets Division has successfully implemented the reuse of sanding materials through a Beneficial Use Determined (BUD) approved by Montana DEQ, for the past four years. The sand and chips that are swept off the streets are tested for contaminants by an independent laboratory. The sweeping are then screened to eliminate refuse and mixed with salt and new sand materials resulting in a clean, safe and uniform product. This program has proven to be cost effective for the City of Helena.

Some cities use an odd even property address schedule for sweeping streets by north–south or east-west pattern. To enforce the schedule a ticketing is used in Bozeman, while vehicles are towed in Missoula. The schedule can be interrupted by mechanical failures, personnel issues and weather related issues. Great Falls has published their sweeping schedules and has adopted a policy of skipping areas where parked cars interfere with their ability to sweep.

The City of Helena has been very successful in keeping the streets clean without the use of a set schedule or implementing punitive measures such as towing or ticketing policies to effectively sweep its streets. Helena’s streets are swept daily, weather permitting. The practice of daily sweeping has increased the frequency of citywide sweeping to at least eight times each year, double the rate of other cities surveyed. The Street Division also responds to calls for specific needs, responding to calls ranging from reports of broken glass to construction spills, etc. If your street is in need of sweeping please call the City Street Division at 447-1566.

Frequently Asked Questions: (FAQ)

Q. *I left my car on the street and the sweeper was unable to sweep the street, can the sweeper come back?*

A. Yes, we do our best to accommodate the needs of our customers. If we missed your section of the street, please call the Street Division Office, 447-1566.

Q. *I am cleaning my yard; can I sweep the leaves and debris into the street?*

A. Unfortunately, no. We do not have the necessary equipment or manpower to be able to clean up personal property. We can handle smaller amounts, such as the leaves from the boulevards but if the leaves are too heavy they will plug the sweeper. If you have large amounts of yard debris, you can contact the City Solid Waste Division and request a Tramp Truck, the phone number is 887-8046.

Q. *There was a utility dig across the street from my house, who is responsible for the clean up?*

A. The contractor who obtained the permit for excavating in the Right of Way is responsible for restoring the asphalt, as well as the clean up. If the site has not been cleaned up, please contact the Street Division Office, 447-1566.